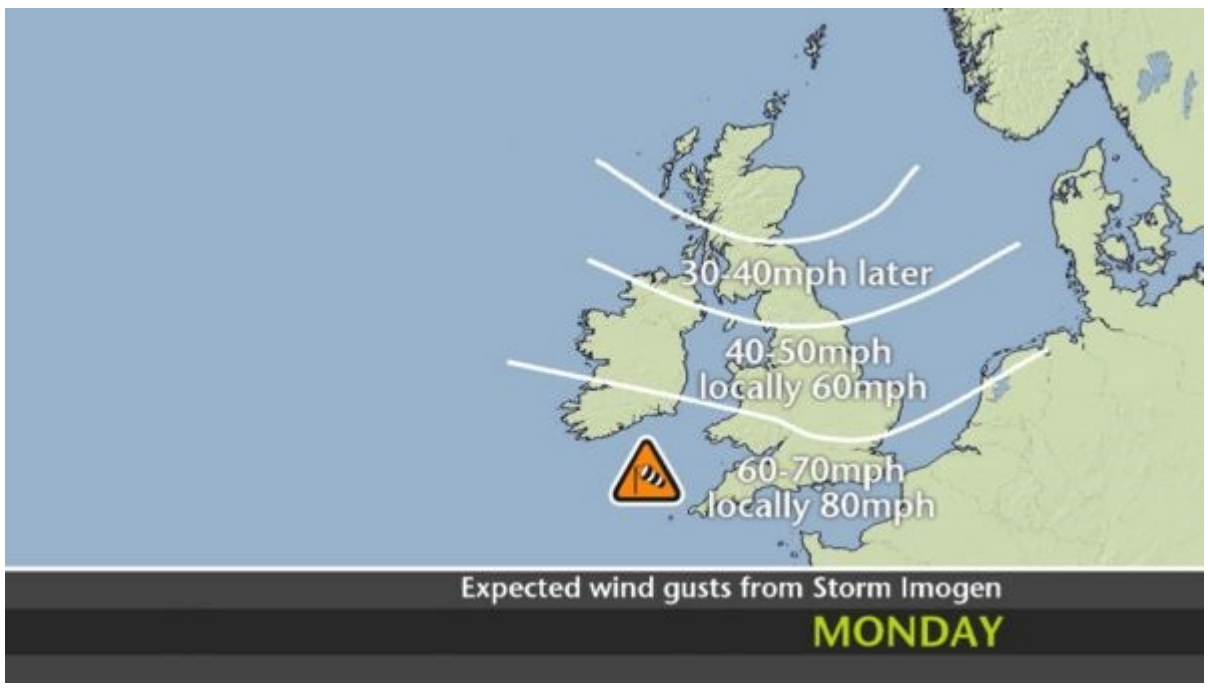
8 February 2016 - A low pressure system bringing strong winds to southern Britain has been named Storm Imogen

Storm Imogen has brought some very strong winds to southern England and South Wales as it moves eastwards across the UK (Monday).

The Met Office issued an Amber "be prepared" National Severe Weather Warning for wind for Storm Imogen which is valid from 3 am until 6 pm on Monday. There is also a larger Yellow "be aware" Severe Weather Warning for wind also valid from 3 am to 6 pm on Monday.



Storm Imogen gust strength

Met Office Chief Forecaster, Will Lang, said; "Gusts of 60-70 mph are expected in southern England and parts of south Wales, with 80 mph gusts possible in exposed coastal districts. Some very large waves are also likely along some coasts especially along the north coasts of Cornwall and Devon".

Violent storm force 11 is expected in areas off the south coast of the UK with very high or phenomenal sea states in places, meaning wave heights could reach as high as 16 meters. These are the wave heights expected out at sea, along the coast waves will be much smaller, for example the Bristol Channel could see waves of 4 to 6 metres with the highest waves expected at low tide, therefore reducing the potential impact on our coast. A maximum wave height of 19.14 meters was recorded 10.30am Monday morning at the Wave Hub off the coast of St Ives.

The strongest winds are expected to affect areas around the Bristol Channel and could affect the M4 and M5 motorways with wind gusts peaking from late morning into the afternoon. There is a risk of some disruption to infrastructure, road and rail.

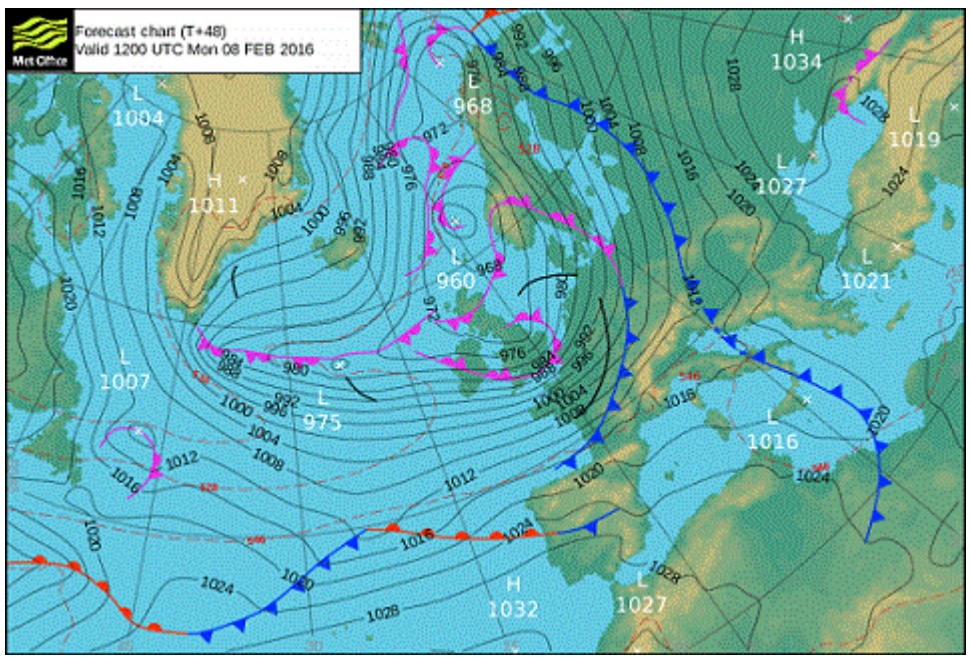
Gary Webb from Highways England said "We are keeping a close eye on the situation as it develops and would encourage drivers, especially those driving high sided vehicles, motorcycles or considering a trip with a caravan, to consider driving conditions before setting off as they could be difficult.

"If you do have to make a journey by road be prepared, plan your journey in advance and check the latest weather conditions along your route.

"Be aware of sudden gusts of wind, and give high-sided vehicles, caravans, and motorbikes plenty of space. In the event of persistent high winds we may need to close bridges to traffic for a period, so please be alert for warnings of closures and follow signed diversion routes."

Travel information for England's motorways and major A roads is available from Highways England .

Strong winds could also have an impact at airports in the south east, such as Heathrow



Surface Pressure Chart 8 February

Winds should gradually ease through Monday afternoon and evening. Please be prepared for disruption to travel as well as possible damage to trees and structures, and interruption of power supplies.

Tuesday and Wednesday should be drier, quieter and colder days for many before more wind and rain follows later in the week.

Storm Imogen follows Storm Henry, which ran close to the north of Scotland through Monday 1 Feb 2016 into Tuesday 2 Feb 2016.

Last updated: 8 February 2016